

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6620

AMEMBASSY BERN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5100

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, AR (PABLO PARDO, LUIS MARIA DE)

SUBJECT: NEW ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND

1. PABLO PARDO, THE NEW ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO BERN IS A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT. BORN IN BUENOS AIRES AUGUST 15, 1914, HE RECEIVED DEGREES IN LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES IN 1940 AND THEN TOOK THE POST-GRADUATE COURSE AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE. HE JOINED THE ARGENTINE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1947 AND WAS ASSIGNED TO WASHINGTON AS CULTURAL ATTACHE. HE LEFT THE SERVICE IN 1951 (APPARENTLY BECAUSE HE WAS FED UP WITH THE PERON REGIME), BUT REJOINED IN 1958 AS LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR. FROM 1960-61 HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO CHILE. PABLO PARDO LED A NUMBER OF ARGENTINE DELEGATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA DURING HIS YEARS IN THE MINISTRY, INCLUDING THOSE TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1958, 59, 70 AND 71.

2. PABLO PARDO WAS FOREIGN MINISTER DURING THE LEVINGSTON AND LANUSSE ADMINISTRATIONS FROM 1970-72. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT ARGENTINA RECOGNIZED AND ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC DURING THAT TIME. THE DECISION TO RECOGNIZE WAS PRESIDENT LANUSSE'S. PABLO PARDO WAS SIMPLY CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS. NONETHELESS, WHEN STRONG ELEMENTS IN THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES QUESTIONED THE DECISION, PABLO PARDO WAS USED AS A SCAPEGOAT. LANUSSE ASKED HIM TO RESIGN, WHICH HE DID QUIETLY.

3. PRIOR TO THE MARCH 24, 1976 MILITARY COUP, SEVERAL WELL-CONFIDENTIAL

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INFORMED EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATED PABLO PARDO HAD BEEN

CALLED UPON BY THE MILITARY LEADERS FOR ADVICE AS TO HOW BEST TO STRUCTURE A COHERENT FOREIGN POLICY. IT HAD EVEN BEEN PREDICTED THAT HE MIGHT AGAIN BECOME FOREIGN MINISTER. HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND, THEN, WHILE A REWARD FOR PAST SERVICES, MAY HAVE BEEN LESS THAN HE EXPECTED.

4. PABLO PARDO IS MARRIED TO AIDA QUINTEROS SANCHEZ DE BUSTAMANTE, AND HAS TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND FRENCH AS WELL AS SPANISH.
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